

SWANNING AROUND

'The art of cruising
majestically'

Bombay and back

Last December, this column brought you news of Indian army sappers setting off from the Solent for Bombay in Swan 37 'Trishna', prior to their world cruise — all part of the army training programme.

We have just received the skipper's report on the successful completion of the first 'leg'. Trishna met eight severe gales between Biscay and Greece, perhaps not too surprising in the winter months. But as Major Rao says "The first severe storm, winds over 50 knots, blinding rain and 30-40 feet waves was a good experience for the crew of seven and brought tremendous confidence both in ourselves and our fifteen year old Swan".

Apart from the usual problems of picking up tainted water and 'amazing' formalities at Port Said, and the unusual problem of being battered by flying fish from Muscat to Bombay, the trip went well and preparations are now under way for the 1½ year circumnavigation beginning next September.

Southseas Swans

David Samuelson, owner of the sixteen year old Swan 43 'Swan II' has written in with a brief report of his rather more extended world wanderings with a smaller crew (wife and daughter). He writes from Tahiti with plans to end up in New Zealand by the end of this year, having started off from Cannes in 1978. Obviously very happy with his venerable Swan he says "She is a super boat and still gets the eye from other cruisers with new boats".

Atlantic Swan

The new Swan 651 'Fazer Finland' has just returned to the UK after her Atlantic Triangle sea trials for the Whitbread race. Her record to date is quite impressive and bodes well for the Whitbread: First monohull on elapsed time and second on handicap in the route of Discovery transatlantic race from Spain to the Dominican Republic, first Whitbread entry in this year's S.O.R.C. series in the U.S.A. and, just recently, a very fast passage returning from the States. From Miami to St. Katherine's Dock took just 20 days sailing time at an average speed of 8.9 knots — that's fast cruising in anybody's language.

It is also interesting to surmise that 'Trishna', 'Swan II' and 'Fazer Finland', three Swans with very different objectives, could all actually be in New Zealand together next Christmas.

Mega Swans

We can now confirm that Nautor have started to build a 100 foot fast cruising Swan. To a design by Ron Holland with a Jon Bannenburg interior this is the first custom built large Swan and will be launched in 1986. The hull plug is well under way and we will be bringing you updates as construction progresses.

We are also pleased to announce that Nau-